peared varied from four to thirty days. Contraction of the muscles of the upper extremity was not observed, nor had it ever been observed in the Leipsic clinic (Prof. Thiersch). Hæmoglobinuria has never yet been observed to the knowledge of the author, and is explained by attributing it to the effect of the same infectious matter which causes tetanus.

The author laments that no treatment has as yet been found which could effectually combat the disease. Amputation, opium, morphine, chloral, salicylic acid and curare (the latter in large doses, continued till respiratory paralysis ensued) had all been tried and discarded.

In the text casual mention is made of a number of other unpublished cases of tetanus.—*Deutsch. Zeitschr. f. Chir.* Bd. 23. Hft. 5 and 6. June 1886,

W. W. VAN ARSOALE (New York).

OPERATIVE SURGERY.

I. **Socin's Method of Removing Tumors of the Thyroid by Intraglandular Enucleation.** By R. F. WEIR, M.D. (New York). As complete extirpation of the thyroid in case of tumors of that gland involves danger of consequent myxœdema, Socin of Basel has called attention to the fact that in most cases the new growth of thyroid tissue or neoplastic elements can readily be separated from the normal gland tissue; to do this, it is only necessary to cut through the overlying stratum of healthy thyroid tissue until the capsule of the tumor is reached, when enucleation can be easily accomplished; the divided gland tissue might give rise to considerable venous oozing, but this is easily controlled. Socin's experience now embraces over fifty cases without any subsequent cachexia. In case of a dwarf, æt. 21, mentally deficient and presenting the appearance of commencing myxœdema, an enlarged irregular thyroid gland had existed from infancy on the left side of the neck; on the right side, no general enlargement was felt or seen, but, nearly on a level with the larynx, was a roundish movable tumor—afterward found to be adenomatous—of the size of a hen's egg, which had appeared within the past eighteen months, had caused considerable pain on that side of the head, and had also been

increasing in size and moved with the trachea in swallowing. Declining to extirpate the entire gland, Dr. Weir made a vertical incision over the tumor and cut through the gland substance of a deep red color to the depth of more than a quarter of an inch until the tumor was exposed freely, and with the end of the scalpel and the finger nail, an hour-glass shaped growth, two inches long and three-fourths of an inch wide, was promptly enucleated. The venous oozing from the substance of the thyroid gland was easily checked by clamps and ligatures and the cut edges stitched together, except at the lower edge, where a drainage tube was inserted, and then the cutaneous incision was sutured in a similar manner; primary union resulted.—*N. Y. Surgical Society*, December 8, 1886.

JAMES E. PILCHER.

VASCULAR SYSTEM.

I. Subcutaneous Injury of the Popliteal Artery. By DR. CONRAD BRUNNER (Zurich). The author gives four cases of rupture of the popliteal artery due to injury, observed at the surgical clinic at Zurich under Rose and Krönlein.

I. *Rupture of popliteal artery by anterior dislocation of tibia. Gangrene of foot and leg.* A laborer, æt. 44, while felling trees, was hit by a falling fir-tree, seventy feet in length, on the anterior aspect of the thigh. Rapid swelling of the knee and leg ensued. On the following day he was admitted into the hospital, where dislocation of the tibia was diagnosed and treated by reduction and application of plaster-of-Paris bandages. There was no pulse present in the popliteal, tibialis posterior, or dorsalis pedis arteries, and sensibility of the first and second toe was greatly diminished.

Gangrene ensued in eleven days; with demarcation below the knee-joint one month later. Amputation of the thigh. The course of wound-healing was delayed for nine months owing to necrosis of the bone of the stump which ensued.

II. *Rupture of popliteal artery by anterio-lateral displacement of tibia. Gangrene of foot and leg.* Strong man was shovelling earth dug for a foundation, and standing with his knees bent, when he was